



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE

2025-2026

Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care Technology To
Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Respiratory Care Technology degree at Cincinnati State (CState) and leads to the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Respiratory Care degree at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the CState2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at Cincinnati State, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at Cincinnati State.

Degree Requirements for Cincinnati State

1) Completion of minimum 60 credit hours, 2) minimum cumulative GPA 2.0, 3) completion of an FYE course as part of the first 12 credit hours taken at Cincinnati State, and 4) completion of Cooperative Education.

Admission Requirements for NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

For students transferring programs to face-to-face entry level program:

Special admission requirements: The respiratory care program admits students each fall through a selective admission process. Once applicants have regular admission to NKU, they will be considered for the professional RSP courses if these criteria are met:

1. Completion of a program application form.
2. GPA of 2.30 or higher on previous college coursework, on a 4.0 scale.

3. Completion of the following courses with a grade of C or better:
 - a. [BIO 208/BIO 208L](#)
 - b. Mathematics general education course (STA 205 or STA 205R required for program completion).
 - c. General education course in the "written I" part of the communication category
 - d. [CHE 115/CHE 115L](#)
4. Successful completion of a criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program.
5. Applicants whose native language is other than English must demonstrate an established level of English proficiency by taking the Internet-based TOEFL. Please see **English Proficiency** below for more information.

Applications completed prior to **February 15** are given priority. Conditional acceptance into the program can be given to students enrolled in any prerequisite course by the priority application date of **February 15**. Successful completion of these courses must be documented at the end of the term for final program admission. Students will be notified of their admission status in writing. Students who want to major in Respiratory Care but do not yet meet the above criteria should declare pre-respiratory care as their major, apply for acceptance into the program, and follow the advice of their Respiratory Care faculty advisor. Many students take prerequisites, general education, and science requirements before starting the professional RSP course sequence. Students must also fulfill the immunization requirements listed on the Respiratory Care program immunization form and described in the Respiratory Care program student handbook before they are given hospital clinical assignments, a required part of the curriculum.

English Proficiency: A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in respiratory care courses as well as for patient and client safety. For this reason, applicants whose native language is other than English must demonstrate an established level of English proficiency by taking the Internet-based TOEFL as part of the application process and must have a minimum cumulative score of 90 with minimum individual scores of 26 in speaking, 22 in listening, 20 in writing, and 22 in reading. Only official scores will be accepted and the testing must be within two years of application to the program. Only the Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) will be accepted. Students must register for the iBT using the school code for Northern Kentucky University which is #1574. Students must take the test early enough to ensure that the results are reported to the university by required application deadlines. "Official language" is defined as an individual's first acquired language and the language of educational instruction. For a complete list of NKU approved countries with English as the "official language," please contact the International Student & Scholar Services at 859-572-6517 or <https://inside.nku.edu/internationalstudents.html>. The Test of English as a Foreign Language is offered by the Educational Testing Service and may be taken at various test centers throughout the world.

The TOEFL requirement may be appealed under extenuating circumstances. The appeal should be made in writing to the Respiratory Care program director, who may request that the applicant have an interview with the director or designee.

Student criminal background check: Healthcare agencies are charged with providing care and protecting the safety of vulnerable populations including children and the aged. Agencies used for clinical placement require students to undergo criminal background checks and may deny clinical access to those convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanors. Conviction of these offenses may result in a

student's denial of admission to, or dismissal from, the College of Health of Health & Human Services. Applicants are required to submit to criminal background checks as identified by the College of Health & Human Services as part of the application process. The cost of this and any subsequent screening will be borne by the student. The student is responsible for notifying the College of Health & Human Services of any change in the status of this record after starting the program. Note that successful completion of a criminal background check does not ensure eligibility for certification, licensure, or future employment. **All students must be physically free of illegal drugs and alcohol. Drug testing may be required by specific clinical sites at the student's expense. Failure of a drug test may result in program dismissal.**

Technical standards: Candidates eligible for the Respiratory Care program must be able to meet the following technical standards. These standards specify skills necessary for successful completion of the program and subsequent employment as a respiratory care practitioner. *

Issue	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities (not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations, develop respiratory care plans.
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in oral and written forms.	Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret therapeutic procedures and patient/client responses.
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	Establish rapport with patients and colleagues from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.	Move around in patients' rooms, work spaces, and treatment areas; administer cardiopulmonary procedures.
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective respiratory care.	Calibrate and use equipment; position patients/clients.
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, and auscultatory sounds.
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in respiratory care.	Observe patient/client responses; able to differentiate color.
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and those related to therapeutic intervention (for example, insertion of a catheter).

**Students with disabilities should declare the disability and provide verification to the Office of Student Accessibility so reasonable accommodations can be made.*

Progression: A student must achieve a grade of at least **C** in each Respiratory care course, as well as in each science course and required courses for the major, in order to continue in the program. Accurate knowledge of chemistry and human anatomy and physiology is essential for the effective application of respiratory therapy. For this reason, the required science courses must be taken before or during the semester in which they are listed in the program curriculum. Failure to meet this requirement will result in failure to progress in the program. Science courses older than seven years or with grades lower than **C** will not be recognized as fulfilling program requirements

Assessment of Major: In the sixth term, as part of " RSP 480 Respiratory Care Seminar (3 credits)" students as a group must take the TMC self-assessment examinations from the National Board for Respiratory Care. The examinations (1) give students the opportunity to demonstrate a synthesis of knowledge about respiratory care, (2) help students prepare for the actual TMC examination, and (3) provide group examination performance information for program self-evaluation as required for accreditation.

You should also know: The Respiratory Care program is a full-time, daytime, face-to-face program. The schedule is challenging with classes and clinical activities each day plus out-of-class/clinical assignments. The time frame is demanding, and any work outside of the program needs to be both flexible and limited in hours per week in order for the student to be successful in the Respiratory Care program.

♦ Indicates prerequisite.

Note: Students who have a current Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) should apply to the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Completion program.

Requirements for admission into Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Completion Program:

Admission Requirements for NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU. In addition, students must meet the admission requirements to the Respiratory Care Completion Program listed below.

- Applicants must be a graduate of a CoARC accredited program.
- Have a GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for all transferable college work.
- Have a current Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). Credits can be earned for specific NKU courses for students with credentials such as ACCS.
- Meet all eligibility requirements for admissions into NKU.
- All academic work must be evaluated by NKU Admissions Office and the Respiratory Care Program Director.

This major is completed online. Courses are offered in seven-week formats. Tuition for online accelerated programs differs from face-to-face tuition. Scholarship pricing is available to Ivy Tech students who choose to enroll in the fully online program. Visit our website for more information about the [Respiratory Care Completion Accelerated Online program](#).

Degree Requirements for NKU

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 and above. In addition, at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at NKU. Students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 and meet all requirements for the major. A minor is not required for this major.

Advising Note

Students in the CState2NKU program should work closely with their advisors when choosing courses. This document serves as a guide but does not replace academic advising. When choosing Cincinnati State courses, student may also consult the Associate of Arts advising brochure or the catalog for A and B list courses in Arts and Humanities or Social and Behavioral Sciences.

**CINCINNATI STATE AAS IN RESPIRATORY CARE TECHNOLOGY TO
NKU BS IN RESPIRATORY CARE CHECKLIST**

Cincinnati State

Category 1: Ohio Transfer 36 Requirements

CState Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	English Composition 1	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	English Composition 2: Contemporary Issues	3	ENG 102	
MAT 131	Statistics I	3	STA 113	
PSY 110	Introduction to Psychology	3	PSY 100	
BIO 151	Anatomy and Physiology 1	4	BIO 208/208L	
Subtotal General Education Courses		16		

Category 2: CState Degree Requirements for the AAS in Respiratory Care Technology

CState Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
FYE 1XX	First Year Experience Elective	1	UNV 100T	
BIO 152	Anatomy and Physiology 2	4	BIO 209/209L	
BIO 220	Microbiology	3	BIO 202/202L	
BIO 240	Pathophysiology	3	HSC 300T	
RT 100	Introduction to Respiratory Care	1	HSC 101	
RT 101	Respiratory Care Science	4	RSP 201/201L	
RT 102	Respiratory Care Science 2	4	RSP 220	
RT 103	Mechanical Ventilation	4	RSP 310	
RT 111	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice 1	2	RSP 286	
RT 112	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice 2	2	RSP 296	
RT 172	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	4	RSP 235	
RT 173	Cardiopulmonary Disease	4	RSP 350	
RT 201	Advance Respiratory Critical Care	3	RSP 331	
RT 202	Specialties in Respiratory Care	2	RSP 300T	
RT 203	Respiratory Care Seminar	2	RSP 480	
RT 204	Respiratory Care Capstone	1	RSP 300T	
RT 211	Respiratory Clinical Practice 3	2	RSP 386	
RT 212	Respiratory Clinical Practice 4	2	RSP 486	
Total Associate Degree Credit Hours		64		

Northern Kentucky University

Category 3: NKU Additional General Education Requirements

NKU Course	Course	Credits	CState Course	Taken at CState
TBS XXX	Self & Society	6		
TBS XXX	Culture & Creativity	6		
TBS XXX	Global Viewpoints	3		
Subtotal General Education Courses		15		

TBS XXX means to be selected.

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for the BS in Respiratory Care

NKU Course	Course	Credits	CState Course	Taken at CState
BIO 202/202L	Microbiology for Health Professionals	4	BIO 220	x
BIO 208/208L	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	BIO 151	x
BIO 209/209L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	BIO 152	x
CHE 115/115L	Physiological Chemistry	4	CHE 115	
ENG 101	College Writing	3	ENG 101	x
HHS 230	Communication and Patient Care	3		
HIN 355	Foundations of Health Informatics	3		
HSC 410	Healthcare Management	3		
HSC 421	Healthcare Research	3		
Select 1:	Select one course from the following: HHS 500 HSC 413 HSC 415 HSC 440 HSR 314	3		
STA 205	Statistical Methods	3	MAT 131 + MAT 132	
RSP 201	Fundamentals of Respiratory Care	3	RT 101	x
RSP 201L	Respiratory Care Equipment and Procedures	1	RT 101	x
RSP 205	Respiratory Care Pharmacology	3		
RSP 220	Introduction to Respiratory Critical Care	4	RT 102	x
RSP 235	Respiratory Physiology and Physics	3	RT 172	x
RSP 286	Clinical Practicum I	3	RT 111	x
RSP 296	Clinical Practicum II	3	RT 112	x
RSP 310/310L	Mechanical Ventilation	4	RT 103	x
RSP 331	Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics	3	RT 201	x
RSP 350	Cardiopulmonary Pathophysiology	3	RT 173	x
RSP 362	Pre-natal-Pediatric Respiratory Care	3		
RSP 386	Clinical Practicum III	3	RT 211	x
RSP 396	Clinical Practicum IV	3		

NKU Course	Course	Credits	CState Course	Taken at CState
RSP 430	Advanced Pathophysiology	3		
RSP 441	Case Studies in Evidence Based Practice	3		
RSP 445	Health Assessment and Promotion	3		
RSP 460	Advanced Respiratory Critical Care	3		
RSP 480	Respiratory Care Seminar	3	RT 203	x
RSP 485	Respiratory Care Capstone	3		
RSP 486	Clinical Practicum	3	RT 212	x
Subtotal Major Credit Hours Taken at NKU		46		
Subtotal Major Credit Hours Taken at CState		51		
Total Credit Hours Required for the Major		97		
Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours		125		

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